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MARICOPA COUNTY

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A Land of golden opportunities

MARICOPA COUNTY ARIZONA

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A valley of farm land with soil of unsurpassed fertility walled in by hills rich in minerals,---that, in brief, is Maricopa County, Arizona. To it are invited the home-seeker and the investor who are looking for golden opportunities amid the most favorable surroundings.

Maricopa County contains 7,500 square miles, or an area equal to that of the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined, yet it is not the largest county in the great Territory of Arizona, but only one of the thirteen counties making up the 113,000 square miles within the boundaries of the Territory. Within the county lies the largest body of cultivated land in the Territory, known as the Salt River Valley, irrigated by the Salt, Verde, and Gila Rivers, which are the largest flood streams of the Southwest, barring the Colorado.

Situated in the south central portion of the Territory, and with railroad lines tapping the rich mineral sections surrounding it, Maricopa County is the natural garden spot of Arizona and

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the chief source of agricultural products for the Territory. Naturally, too, her cities and towns have become the principal distributing points for all classes of supplies going to the surrounding mining camps and settlements. Within the principal valleys of the county are over 500,000 acres of tillable land. In this connection it is well to remember that one acre in an irrigated district is equal to at least four acres in a rain country owing to the multiplying of crops and the constantly renewed fertility of the soil.

Based upon the solid foundation of agriculture is the prosperity of Maricopa County, and underlying this foundation is the constancy and regularity of irrigation water supply in the Salt River Valley now assured by the building of the Tonto Dam by the Reclamation Service of the national government. For years the Salt River Valley has been irrigated and cultivated by the settlers of modern times. So level is its surface that it is believed the land was smoothed by ancient irrigators,

probably the Toltecs of pre-Aztec lineage. At the present time great canals, some of them respectable rivers in capacity, take the river's supply of life-giving water far off upon the thirsty plain to distribute it upon fertile farms. Formerly the water supply was intermittent, in that the river at times carried great floods which ran to the sea owing to the lack of means to store them. Only a certain volume of water could be carried by the canals, and the remainder, flowing through the rivers to the Gulf of California, was wasted so far as the people of the Salt River Valley were concerned. With the passage of the National Irrigation Law came opportunity to end the uncertainty of water supply by the promise of means to store the flood waters for future use. One of the first to be decided upon by the Secretary of the Interior, and also one of the largest--the Salt River project, as it is officially known--is the solution of the problem of irrigation water supply in this valley.

The Tonto Dam and Reservoir, as they are known locally from their location just below the junction of Tonto Creek with Salt

River, will give an assured supply of water for about 200,000 acres of land in Salt River Valley. This includes several thousand acres which will be irrigated with water pumped from the underground supply by means of electric power generated at the dam. The Tonto Dam, which will be the highest in the world and the next largest to the great Assouan Dam across the Nile, is seventy miles from Phœnix, but the land to be irrigated from it lies within a radius of twenty miles around the city. The dam is reached by a wonderful wagon road from Mesa, built through magnificent mountain scenery by means of bonds to the amount of $75,000 voted by the people of Phœnix, Tempe and Mesa. At the dam site is the construction camp of Roosevelt which will be flooded when the reservoir is filled, but which now serves its purpose as the headquarters for hundreds of busy workmen.

Built of huge blocks of hard, red sandstone laid in cement in the most permanent of masonry construction, the Tonto Dam will tower 270 feet above its foundations on bedrock thirty feet below low-water mark. This means 240 feet of structure above the surface,

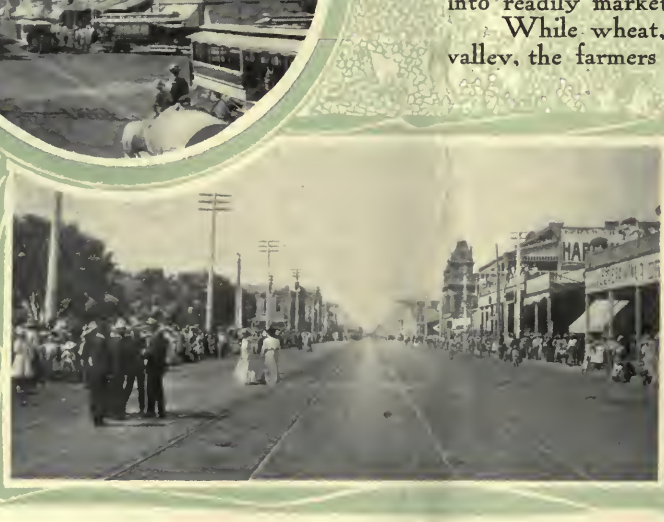
making it the highest dam in the United States. As an outlet for the reservoir, a tunnel 450 feet long has been constructed through the canyon wall around the point where one end of the dam will be built into the rock side wall. During construction this tunnel will carry the diverted waters of the river so that excavations for the foundations may go on uninterruptedly. The tunnel is closed by a series of six mammoth gates of steel, weighing, with their operating machinery, nearly 800,000 pounds, and which will regulate the emptying of the reservoir water.

To carry flood waters around the ends of the dam when the reservoir is full, two spillways, each 200 feet in width, are cut in the solid rock twenty feet lower than the crest of the dam. Concrete steel arch bridges 200 feet long will span the spillways and carry a roadway across the top of the dam. Behind the dam will stretch the greatest artificial reservoir in the world, --a body of water twenty-five miles long and with an average

width of one and one-half miles, and with a capacity for impounding 1,100,000 acre feet of water. This means that the water, if spread out one foot deep, would cover over a million acres, or an area equal to that of the land surface of the whole state of Rhode Island and 700 square miles in Connecticut in addition.

For thirty miles below the dam Salt River flows through a precipitous canyon and this natural waterway will be the outlet for the reservoir. At the mouth of the canyon, and just below the junction of the Verde with Salt River, is a diversion dam which turns the water from its natural course into giant canals to be thence distributed over the valley. By the time the Tonto Dam is completed this diversion dam will be replaced by a masonry dam, set permanently upon bedrock, to turn the combined flow of these two rivers into a dozen main canals by means of huge headgates on each side of the river.

It is not expected that the whole supply of the reservoir



shall be used in any one year. While it takes about over half of this supply is received from the natural filled, would suffice for about three years' supply if natural sources.

The cost of the reservoir project--about $4,000, without interest, in ten annual instalments beginning acres to be benefited this would make the cost twent district has been withdrawn from entry in connection about 125,000 acres are in cultivation, which will deficiency in their annual supply. The remainder of once reclaimed but for which water has been lacki The first object is to protect homes already made, and reclaimed land to 160 acres or less. *In*tensive farmin

When the water is supplied to the soil through then furrows or flooding, the question arises, what may will grow in temperate and semi-tropic regions will crop, and with good water conditions five or six crops two tons to the acre, and the hay in the stack is wor thousands of cattle are driven down from the mountain valley and then sold for beef. Dairying is another into readily marketable products of milch herds.

While wheat, barley, oats, corn, and sorghum valley, the farmers excel in special products. Orange be marketed a month earlier the finest known in the Eas and, pickled or pressed into oil Apricots, figs, lemons, peaches, berries, watermelons, and can products of the Salt River V the United States Agricultu the success of date culture, an happy result. Conditions ar poultry raiser who has a nev

A word about climate winters with their accompani Maricopa County frost is ra Salt River Valley it is scarc dom in this valley that during

r acre feet of water to carry a crop through the year, of the river. At this rate, the reservoir, when once more water should be added to it in that time from

,--is to be repaid the national government as a loan n the dam is completed. Divided among the 200,000 llars an acre. All the public land within the reservoir th this reclamation project. Under present conditions receive the benefits of stored water to make up the area in the reservoir district will be made up of lands under natural conditions in recent years of drought. en to make new ones by limiting individual holdings of ill then be the rule, and not *extensive*.

distributing system of main canals, laterals, ditches, and raised? In brief, the answer is, that anything which e in the Salt River Valley. Alfalfa is the foundation y be cut in a year. Each cutting averages from one to about five dollars a ton for cattle feeding. Every year ges to be fattened on the 50,000 acres of alfalfa in the ns of realizing large returns from alfalfa when turned

grown in quantities more than the necessities of this d pomelos, or "grape fruit," not only ripen in time to from other localities, but are markets. The olive thrives, of the finest quality and flavor. pes, pears, pomegranates, straw- upes are standard horticultural y. In an orchard near Tempe Department has demonstrated dividuals have reached the same xceptionally favorable for the failing market for his products. those who are tired of cold t of frost, snow, and ice. In and in the foothills of the great ever seen. Snow falls so sel- past twenty-two years of the

writer's residence here there have been but two very light snows,--so light in fact that the next day after there was no sign of snow on the ground. The winters are ideal, with a maximum of sunshine and a minimum of cold winds. The wind movement rarely exceeds five miles an hour, while the average yearly rainfall is only seven inches. This valley is free from hurricanes, cyclones, and tornadoes. Such disasters have never visited this section of the country, and expert observers declare that it is impossible for them to reach the Salt River Valley. Although the temperature reaches high figures in summer, it is accompanied by little humidity and in consequence sunstrokes and heat prostrations are unknown among men or animals. This county is free from malaria, chills and all such complaints.

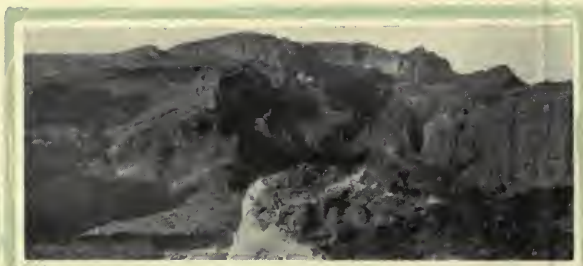
PHŒNIX--Capital city of Arizona and county seat of Maricopa County. Permanent population, 12,000, to which are added between 3,000 and 4,000 tourist visitors every winter. The city comprises over 2,000 acres within its corporate limits and is laid out with wide streets and sidewalks. Beautiful parks surround the public buildings, while the residence streets are nicely shaded. Phœnix has a high school, grammar school, and five ward schools in the public sys-

tem in which about 1,700 children attended school last year, while 250 were enrolled in private schools. Twelve church denominations are represented and all have commodious houses of worship. The city has miles of pleasant drives leading to the surrounding agricultural districts. Four lines of street railway with twenty miles of track make access convenient to all parts of the city and suburbs. Electric communication with the outside world is kept up through the lines of both the great telegraph systems and by long distance telephone. The city has over 900 subscribers in the local telephone exchange. The people of Phœnix have a domestic supply of pure water from a system with capacity of three million gallons a day pumped from a deep well, and having no connection whatever with the irrigating system supplied with water from Salt River. The altitude of Phœnix is only 1076 feet, and this, combined with the location of the city in a valley almost surrounded by hills, makes what is considered an ideal winter resort. The mean annual temperature is 69.3 degrees, and the average wind velocity is less than five miles an hour. Frosts are infrequent and then light. The finances of Phœnix residents and visitors are well looked after by five banking institutions with correspondents all over this country and

abroad. The assessed valuation of property in the city is over five millions and this represents probably sixty per cent of the actual value. Phœnix has all the conveniences and equipment of the most modern city, including electric light and power, gas for illuminating and for fuel, ice factories, creameries, steam laundries, machine shops, foundries, and various other manufacturing plants. Three daily papers give the news of the world, aided by several weekly publications. A well-equipped public library, which has been in use for several years, will soon be transferred to a $25,000 building now being erected through the gift of Andrew Carnegie. Three theaters, various halls, and two natatoriums afford places of amusement and recreation. Golf and tennis grounds are maintained at the Country Club, the links being among the finest and most popular in the Southwest for winter playing. All of the fraternal orders have flourishing lodges in Phœnix, some of them owning their own rooms and buildings. The post-office equipment of the city is the most up-to-date and is supplemented by four rural routes. At Phœnix is located the Territorial Fair Association with commodious show grounds and a well-laid-out track with all accommodations for the best winter care of thoroughbred horses in training.

Three miles from the city is the Phœnix Industrial Indian School, where over 700 Indian children from thirty different tribes are taught manual dexterity and how to be self-supporting. Three railroads make their terminus in Phœnix. The Santa Fe, Prescott and Phœnix is a branch from the Santa Fe system, connecting with the main line at Ash Fork, 197 miles to the north. From Maricopa, thirty-five miles to the south, runs the Maricopa & Phœnix & Salt River Valley, a branch connection of the Sunset Route of the Southern Pacific, and also connecting with the transcontinental trains of the Rock Island system. The Phœnix & Eastern is another Santa Fe line in construction southeastward from Phœnix, now in operation for about 100 miles and destined to be a link in a low-grade main line.

TEMPE--A beautiful little town of 1,500 inhabitants located on the south side of Salt River nine miles east of Phœnix, and in the center of a rich agricultural district. Here is located the Normal School of Arizona, with a commodious group of buildings and well-laid-out grounds, affording accommodations for an enrollment of over 200 pupils. A municipal plant supplies an abundant water service for domestic and fire purposes. Light



is furnished by an electric plant. Churches, schools, and fraternal organizations are representative and adequate. A condensed milk plant is a recently established industry.

MESA CITY--Sixteen miles east from Phœnix is the "Gem City", but now better known as the gateway to the Tonto reservoir. Mesa is the nearest railroad point to the dam site and construction camp of Roosevelt and from here runs a magnificent mountain road with superb scenery along nearly the whole of its 60 miles. Over the road travel daily lines of stage coaches, while numerous freighting teams are engaged in carrying workmen and supplies to the great engineering work in the heart of the mountains. Mesa has a high school and contributary graded schools with over 700 children enrolled. The population of the town is about 1200. As the center of a country especially favorable for growing fruit, grapes, melons, and cantaloupes, carloads of these products are shipped every year from Mesa, besides live stock, hogs, and sheep. Mesa is the center of the largest operations in pumping for irrigation purposes from the almost inexhaustible underground supply of water. Several large plants are established in this vicinity and are in successful operation; one alone irrigating over 3,000 acres of alfalfa.

BUCKEYE--A favorable grain and alfalfa growing and cattle feeding district 30 miles southwest of Phœnix, with which city the district is connected by stage line and wagon road. The Buckeye canal receives an abundant supply of water by means of a diversion dam across the Gila River, below its confluence with the Salt and just west of the Agua Fria River. Range cattle are driven in for feeding in thousands each year and the exports are fat cattle, besides hay, grain, and hogs.

ARLINGTON--West of Buckeye and also receiving its irrigation supply from the Gila River, west of the Hassayampa. Cattle fattening, hay and grain growing are the chief means of support of a growing and thriving population.

WICKENBURG--Center camp of a mining district of promise, which includes parts of Maricopa and Yavapai counties, is located on the Santa Fe, Prescott & Phœnix Railroad, about 50 miles from Phœnix. The town is the northernmost in Maricopa County. Through discoveries of gold in the near-by hills the town is growing rapidly. A custom smelter is promised at an early date.

ALHAMBRA--A suburban hamlet, 4 miles northwest of Phœnix, surrounded by comfortable rural homes. Here are situated the kilns of the Alhambra Brick Co.

GLENDALE--Another suburban hamlet, 9 miles northwest of Phœnix, center of a considerable fruit growing section, and in the heart of the beet sugar land of the Salt River Valley.

PEORIA--Yet farther northwest from Phœnix and a hamlet surrounded by ranches of promise.

SCOTTSDALE--A settlement devoted chiefly to health-seekers, in the shelter of the hills, 12 miles northeast of Phœnix and separated from the principal irrigated section by a wide expanse of virgin land over which the pure, dry air circulates freely.

AGUA CALIENTE--Hot Springs are located in the southwestern part of Maricopa County, one and a half miles north of the Gila River and 12 miles north of Sentinel Station on the Southern Pacific, with which the place is connected by stage. The hot water from the springs is used for drinking as well as bathing. The temperature of the water is from 98 to 104 degrees Fahr., and the resort is patronized by those seeking rest and recuperation as well as by those who desire restoration to health.

For further information and beautifully illustrated booklet, send four cents in stamps to Commissioner of Immigration, Phoenix, Arizona, or Secretary Board of Trade, Phoenix, Arizona.